

Claims:

1. A method for registering a subscriber unit with a home agent in a cellular system, the method comprising:

storing addresses for a plurality of home agents in the subscriber unit, wherein the plurality of home agents includes a primary home agent and at least one secondary home agent;

attempting registration with the primary home agent;

failing to achieve registration with the primary home agent;

selecting a secondary home agent from the at least one secondary home agent; and

attempting registration with the secondary home agent.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one secondary home agent comprises a plurality of secondary home agents and the method further comprises:

rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

attempting registration with the first secondary home agent;

failing to achieve registration with the first secondary home agent; and

attempting registration with the second secondary home

agent.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first
5 secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent comprises:

generating a random number; and

using the random number to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents.

10 5. The method of claim 2, wherein rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent comprises:

15 determining a current date; and

using the current date to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents.

20 6. The method of claim 2, wherein rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent comprises:

determining a current time; and

25 using the current time to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of

addresses for the home agents stored in the subscriber unit is programmed by a service provider prior to delivering the subscriber unit to its subscriber.

5 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of addresses for the home agents stored in the subscriber unit is programmed by the service provider using over the air access.

10 9. The method of claim 1, wherein at least some of the plurality of addresses for the home agents stored in the subscriber unit is reprogrammed by the service provider using over the air access.

10. A method for registering a subscriber unit with a home agent in a cellular system, the method comprising:

storing addresses for a plurality of home agents in the subscriber unit, wherein the plurality of home agents includes a primary home agent and a plurality of secondary home agents;

attempting registration with the primary home agent;

failing to achieve registration with the primary home agent;

rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent; and

attempting registration with the first secondary home agent.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

failing to achieve registration with the first secondary home agent; and

attempting registration with the second secondary home agent

12. The method of claim 10, wherein rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent comprises:

generating a random number; and

using the random number to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent comprises:

determining a current date; and

using the current date to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent comprises:

determining a current time; and

using the current time to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents.

15. A subscriber unit that operates within a cellular system, the mobile unit comprising:

an antenna;

a radio frequency unit coupled to the antenna; and

5 at least one digital processor coupled to the radio frequency unit that executes software instructions causing the subscriber unit to:

store addresses for a plurality of home agents in the subscriber unit, wherein the plurality of home agents includes a primary home agent and at least one secondary home agent;

attempt registration with the primary home agent;

failing to achieve registration with the primary home agent;

15 select a secondary home agent from the at least one secondary home agent; and

attempt registration with the secondary home agent.

16. The subscriber unit of claim 15, wherein the at least one secondary home agent comprises a plurality of secondary home agents and execution of the software instructions further causes the subscriber unit to:

rank order the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent.

17. The subscriber unit of claim 16, wherein execution

of the software instructions further causes the subscriber unit to:

attempt registration with the first secondary home agent;

5 fail to achieve registration with the first secondary home agent; and

attempt registration with the second secondary home agent.

10 18. The subscriber unit of claim 17, wherein in rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent, execution of the software instructions further causes the subscriber unit to:

15 generate a random number; and

use the random number to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents.

20 19. The subscriber unit of claim 17, wherein in rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent, execution of the software instructions further causes the subscriber unit to:

determine a current date; and

25 use the current date to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents.

20. The subscriber unit of claim 17, wherein in rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent, execution of the software instructions further causes the subscriber unit to:

determine a current time; and

use the current time to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents.

21. The subscriber unit of claim 15, wherein the plurality of addresses for the home agents stored in the subscriber unit is programmed by a service provider prior to delivering the subscriber unit to its subscriber.

22. The subscriber unit of claim 15, wherein the plurality of addresses for the home agents stored in the subscriber unit is programmed by the service provider using over the air access.

23. The subscriber unit of claim 15, wherein at least some of the plurality of addresses for the home agents stored in the subscriber unit is reprogrammed by the service provider using over the air access.